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(54) Video view selection by chairperson.

(57) A switching system (105) allows any one conferee (e.g. at 101) on a video conference to assume the role of manually manipulating (144) the video picture that will be seen by all conferees (chair view) (101-104). In addition, each individual conferee (102-104) is allowed to determine their own video picture content or to select the chair view (by 123-128). Further, anyone of conferees (101-104) can assume the role of determining the chair view. In addition, for the video classroom, a chair view video picture is composed such that the picture displays the visual aid with an insert for an instructor and an insert for a student asking a question. Further, the instructor selects by using a button (129,130) or mouse which student is to be displayed in the student insert, and the video picture automatically displays that student. In another embodiment of the system, the students request permission to ask a question by actuation of a switch on their telephone set, and the names of students asking questions are displayed on a computer display screen. The instructor then can select the student by manipulating the cursor on the computer display to select the desired student.

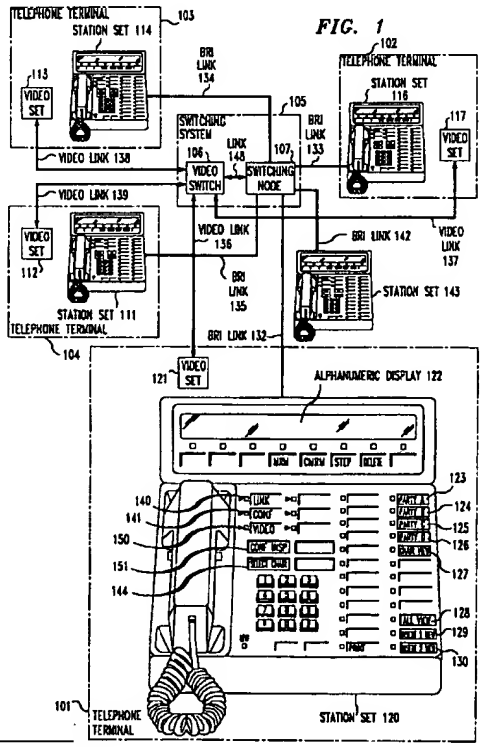

FIG. 1

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